



Friends of Essington Meeting
17th November 2022

Present: Neil Wheeldon, Adrian Nicklin, Clem Whittle, Tracey Taylor, Freddie Homer, Pete Ward.

Apologies: Angie Whittle, Dot Radford, Wayne Whitehouse, Jon Hanson, Colin Richards.

Record of last meeting: Approved by PW, Seconded by FH.

1. Matters arising from the record of the last meeting.

Projects

Calendar 2023

Calendars were distributed by DR & CR. Many Thanks.

AN will circulate the bank details so that people can pay monies in directly.

DR & CR to be asked if they need any assistance in circulating calendars during coming weeks.

Tree Planting

Some of the trees planted last season haven't survived, grass was left around to give some protection and when it dies away will provide a mulch. Strimming and tidy up to be carried out later on in the year. The areas already planted to be extended where possible and Highways department and Forest of Mercia have been contacted. This is ongoing action for early next year.

Bulb Planting

Planting crocuses in the central grassed area near where the trees have been planted on the Cannock Road, Broad Lane chicane area, bottom of Old Hampton Lane and some other areas - these will be discussed with Highways Department-WW to arrange a meeting.

Triangle

The new sponsors for the triangle and the gateway on Blackhalve Lane are having the signage manufactured and will be installed when ready in the new positions. Highways Department to be contacted. WW's gardening company continuing to maintain both areas. Condition of grass and shrubs etc to be discussed at next meeting

NW has completed the renovation of the finger post. It should be noted that in a couple of years the whole post will need replacing as it is rotting and a future renovation will be unfeasible.

Orchard

Photographs have been circulated showing the school children making apple crumble with the fruit. A success 😊

Liaison with Emma at St Johns will continue and NW will organise next work group in new year.

Lock-up

PW has looked at lock and it needs a complete refit to improve function, which he will carry out shortly.

Golf Course Bursnips Road

AN mentioned that planning approval is continuing. If it gets approved, the Council will 'Call it in' to raise their objections.

As previous discussed, the main concerns are the amount of HGV traffic (especially past the school) and the ever-increasing timescale. AN to update at next meeting.

Brownshore Crossing

FH will monitor this project and coordinate future work groups.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours collected from attendees.

Could everyone who did not attend the meeting send in their volunteer hours to DR.

Website/Event Calendar and Magazine Updates

CW reported that they continue to update our web site. It was suggested that a year end summary be included in next Magazine. Going forward, if people can update CW as they complete projects, they can be included in the following months Magazine report.

AGM

WW communicated that the next meeting will also be the AGM.

URGENT: Can all people confirm their availability for Jan 12th 2023 for AGM.

Laptop and projector

Laptop currently with JH for quizzes. CW expressed concern that his personal PC is too slow for the website maintenance so it was agreed he would request the Laptop from JH and they can alternate use as required.

Millennium Stone

The repair has been completed. Many thanks to the Parish Council and Ibstock Brick for support with materials

2. Environmental Activities

Fly-tipping

Consensus around the table was that this has increased. However, the Council do generally react to reports relatively quickly and remove it. AN mentioned that some people had been fined. Please keep reporting any incidents to South Staffs Council: www.tellmycouncil.co.uk/sstaffs.

Wood Hayes Road/Old Hampton Lane junction

Could do with some work but on hold due to information from AN that the gateway across the road will be moved further down.

At the bottom of Old Hampton Lane adjacent to the Cannock Road the tree needs replacing. Ongoing.

Grass cutting

AN explained that he had a map on grass cutting and he would identify who cuts what grass and when. He has started this exercise but due to the complexity has still to complete and present.

Oak Tree

PW has done some repair to sign but it needs further work which he will complete.

3. Social Events

Quiz Nights

Next quiz night - Wed 7th Dec

AN requested that as previous, could the takings from the next quiz be donated to the Poppy Appeal. This was unanimously approved.

4. Correspondence

- An Email was received from County Councillor Kath Perry thanking us for her copy of the 'beautiful' FoE calendar.

5. Any other business

- AN explained the 'South Staffordshire Local Plan Review' is now undertaking consultation (11th Nov to 23rd Dec) and residents should have received a formal letter. There are various on-line Q&A sessions or you can make an 'in person' appointment on-line via the council's website (staffs.gov.uk)
- NW suggested that a robust strimmer be purchased for use around the village. This was agreed in principle but NW will prepare quotes and a brief summary of potential uses for next meeting.
- AN explained that the council would like to pursue the installation of the miner's monument. It was agreed that in the new year it needs to be dry assembled to check it is all in good order. This will also allow a bricklaying quote to be obtained. AN to coordinate.

Date of next meeting (including AGM) - Thursday January 12th 7.30pm in WEB.